

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 5, 15, 17, 18, 20 to 22, 24, 26, and 31 to 37 as set forth in the following listing of the claims now pending in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A fitment comprising: a spout having upper and lower ends; a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness; and a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member ~~including a~~ being ~~semicircular member and~~ having first and second terminal ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness; and said second end being remotely located from said first end and unconnected to said frangible membrane; wherein said frangible membrane and said gripping member are monolithically formed and said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is recessed within said spout.

2. (Currently amended) A ~~fitment~~ fitment according to claim 1, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially inward from said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member.

3. (Currently amended) A ~~fitment~~ fitment according to claim 1 wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is helically shaped.

4. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said second end of said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is located above said upper end of said spout.

5. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member extends approximately 270°.

6-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A fitment comprising:

a spout having an upper end and a lower end;

a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness;

a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a ~~horizontally extending member~~ circular segment having substantially the same diameter as that of said spout and having a lower edge, ~~and a~~ and a first end, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of ~~weakness~~ weakness; and

a frangible connection interconnecting a portion of said lower edge of said ~~horizontally extending~~ gripping member and an adjacent portion of said upper end of said spout.

16. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said gripping member further comprises a second terminal end, said second end being remotely located from said first end.

17. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said ~~horizontally extending~~ gripping member extends at least approximately 270° along said upper end of said spout.

18. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said ~~horizontally extending gripping~~ member ~~includes~~ comprises a lower tapered edge which terminates at said frangible connection.

19. (Original) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein a web interconnects said gripping member and said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness.

20. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 15 further comprising a stop adapted to limit propagation along said frangible connection, said stop interrupts said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said ~~horizontally extending gripping~~ member.

21. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 20 wherein said stop comprises an aperture in said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said ~~horizontally extending gripping~~ member.

22. (Currently amended) A ~~fitment~~ fitment according to claim 15 wherein said ~~horizontally extending member of said~~ gripping member includes cap-engaging structure.

23. (Original) A fitment according to claim 22 wherein said cap-engaging structure includes an external thread adapted to cooperate with an internal thread of a cap.

24. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially outward from said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member.

25. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 24 wherein said gripping protrusions form outwardly extending ribs.

26. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is composed of low density polyethylene.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said gripping member further extends in a space defined above said frangible membrane and within said spout.

29. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein a horizontal width of said gripping member is less than a vertical height of said gripping member.

30. (Previously presented) A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said second terminal end has outwardly extending ribs.

31. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 1, wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member extends at least approximately 180°.

32. (Currently amended) A fitment comprising: a spout having upper and lower ends; a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness; and a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member ~~including a~~ being semicircular ~~member and~~ having first and second terminal ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane

adjacent said line of weakness; and said second end being remotely located from said first end and unconnected to said frangible membrane; wherein said frangible membrane and said gripping member are monolithically formed and said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member extends at least approximately 180°.

33. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 32, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially inward from said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member.

34. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is helically shaped.

35. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said second end of said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is located above said upper end of said spout.

36. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 32 wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member extends approximately 270°.

37. (Currently amended) A fitment according to claim 32, wherein said ~~semicircular~~ gripping member is recessed within said spout.